

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MASERU 00286 070846Z

13

ACTION AID-31

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

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R 051550Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY MASERU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3901

INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MASERU 0286

MBABANE FOR OSARAC

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS LT

SUBJ: LESOTHO REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE TO POLICE

SUMMARY: EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE IN TRAINING AND EQUIPPING LESOTHO POLICE. WE RECOMMEND AGAINST EXPANDING ASSISTANCE TO POLICE AND SUGGEST A SYMPATHETIC BUT ESSENTIALLY NEGATIVE RESPONSE.

1. D.J.A. BRIGGS, BRITISH EXPAT ADVISOR TO PM HOLDING TITLE OF DEPUTY SENIOR PERMANENT SECRETARY IN CABINET OFFICE, REQUESTED ASSISTANCE IN LETTER TO W.S. SMITH, WHO WAS SERVING TEMPORARILY AS OSARAC REPRESENTATIVE IN MASERU. SMITH RETURNED MBABANE BEFORE RECEIPT OF LETTER, BUT COPY HAS BEEN FORWARDED TO HIM THERE.

2. BRIGGS REQUESTED FOLLOWING EQUIPMENT: ONE MACHINE FOR RELOADING 7.62 CALIBRE AMMUNITION, TWO HAND-OPERATED RADAR SPEED TRAPS, AND 50 LAPEL-HELD WALKIE-TALKIES. IN ADDITION, HE REQUESTED TRAINING FOR ONE OFFICER IN OPERATION RELOADING EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING FOR ONE OR TWO PLATOON COMMANDERS AT PLATOON COMMANDERS' SCHOOL AT FORT BRAGG.

3. EMBASSY STRONGLY RECOMMENDS AGAINST ANY SIGNIFICANT INCREASE
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PAGE 02 MASERU 00286 070846Z

IN PRESENT MINIMAL LEVEL OF U.S. ASSISTANCE TO LESOTHO POLICE,

OR CHANGE IN TYPE OF ASSISTANCE, ESPECIALLY AT THIS TIME. IN WAKE OF JANUARY COUP ATTEMPT GOL IS EMBARKED ON INTERNAL SECURITY PROGRAM ACCOMPANIED BY REPRESSION OF POLITICAL OPPOSITION, AND, POLICE REPUTATION FOR BRUTALITY HAS BEEN RECENTLY CONFIRMED. WE BELIEVE ANY U.S. ASSISTANCE TO POLICE SHOULD BE DIRECTED TOWARD AREAS SUCH AS MAKING POLICE MORE RESPONSIVE TO COMMUNITY NEEDS, INSTILLING RESPECT FOR MODERN PROCEDURES AND PUBLIC RELATIONS, AND COMBATTING DRUG TRAFFIC. (AS FAR AS WE AWARE, OUR CURRENT ASSISTANCE IS CONFINED TO TRAINING THREE OFFICERS AT INTERNATIONAL POLICE ACADEMY.)

4. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS RESPONSE TO BRIGGS SHOULD:

--EXPLAIN THAT RECENT SPECIFIC LEGISLATIVE RESTRICTIONS ON AID-SPONSORED POLICE TRAINING, AS WELL AS GENERAL PROBLEMS WITH LEVEL OF AID FUNDING, MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR US TO BE FULLY RESPONSIVE TO HIS REQUEST.

--INDICATE, IF POSSIBLE, OUR WILLINGNESS PROVIDE SPEED TRAPS. THIS JUSTIFIABLE ON GROUNDS OF TRAFFIC SAFETY AND AS MEANS OF ENFORCING FUEL CONSERVATION MEASURES. IF IMPOSSIBLE FOR AID TO PROVIDE SPEED TRAPS, FURNISH INFORMATION ON THEIR COMMERCIAL AVAILABILITY.

--EXPRESS REGRET OUR INABILITY TO PROVIDE TRAINING AT FORT BRAGG, OR TO PROVIDE TRAINING OR EQUIPMENT FOR RELOADING, BUT PROVIDE INFO ON COMMERCIAL SOURCES FOR LATTER.

--EXPRESS OUR WILLINGNESS TO CONTINUE PROVIDE TRAINING FOR LESOTHO POLICE OFFICERS AT IPA FROM TIME TO TIME AS SPACE AND FUNDS PERMIT.

5. RECOMMEND RESPONSE TO BRIGGS COME FROM OSARAC OFFICER, BUT EMBASSY WILLING MAKE RESPONSE IF DESIRED. IF OSARAC TO RESPOND, REQUEST LETTER BE SENT THROUGH EMBASSY FOR CLEARANCE.

6. REQUEST DEPARTMENT'S ADVICE.

7. WOULD APPRECIATE OSARAC'S SENDING COMMENTS ON ABOVE RECOMMENDATIONS AND ANY OTHER SUGGESTIONS DIRECTLY TO DEPARTMENT, CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 MASERU 00286 070846Z

INFO MASERU.
HAUGHT

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 05 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MASERU00286
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: MASERU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740367/aaaackrt.tel
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Review Markings:

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30 JUN 2005

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